

From: O'Connell, Kellie [Kellie.O'Connell@cnpp.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2007 9:42 AM
To: Darton, Terry
Subject: Comment - Mirant Potomac River Generating Station
Terry,

Thank you for receiving comments on the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station issues. I plan to attend the hearing on November 19th.

As a resident at 402 Bashford Lane, my living room windows look directly at the entrance and the coal pile at the Mirant Plant. Over the past many months the coal pile has grown to 3-5 times the size that I can ever recall it being. It is currently higher than the white aluminum building at the plant's entrance. I find this very concerning. Since buying my condo in September of 2006 I have become increasingly aware of the health hazards caused by the Mirant Plant both as close as my place and in the many surrounding miles where air pollution drops down.

Recently, however, the issue of the high coal pile has become a growing concern of mine. The coal pile is enormous! I would be happy to take a photo of the coal pile from my window to send you to show the mammoth size of the coal pile in relation to my home. What is concerning is that as the pile grows higher, the contaminants making their way into my home has increased. The coal is blowing off the pile, into the air, and into my lungs and those of the families around me. I use an ionic breeze filtration system in my living room to help pull dirt from the air. Usually, the dust is dust, grey in color. However, recently, when I wipe down the collection bars in the system the dust is black – it's coal. I can't believe that that much coal is making it into my air! I am a health scientist. I know the coal is also making it into my lungs. I have saved the last couple paper towels I used to wipe down my filter to monitor how black the dust is and would be happy to share those.

I have a father with sarcoidosis, a strange autoimmune disease affecting his lungs. The doctors think it is from exposure to a coal fired stove. To know I am exposed to such contaminants now that have such deteriorating impact on my health is terribly upsetting.

I read the "Particulate Matter (PM) Emission Controls Coal Handling" section of the draft permit. The coal pile should not be as high as it is. It is a direct hazard to those in proximity to the coal pile, including the thousands of individuals traveling through on the Mount Vernon trail each day by bike or foot. The coal is not being adequately contained and it is landing in our lungs.

Regardless of the plants needs to function adequately, the needs to ensure the health of the community are far greater. We deserve not only adequate consideration, but adequate action to ensure safe air quality (not just safer). These actions should be clear in the permit and strictly enforced.

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